

# NOTiCiAS DEL OSO

January 27, 2009

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Don't get too excited, people. This isn't the promised TELPAS 101 newsletter. It's still waiting in the wings, unfortunately. In the past couple of weeks I've been to a LOT of meetings. It seems that at each of these meetings, I found at least one little tidbit of information that I needed to pass along to my cohorts at Berry Middle School.

Therefore, today's billet reads much more like talking points than I had ever intended, but it's 100 % necessary. I'm sure by the time I return from my Wednesday morning meeting, I'll want to send one more update, but I promise to restrain myself and save it for the next newsletter.

*Erin VanSickle*

## ESSENTIAL STUFF TO LEARN

### LEGAL REMINDER!!

As much as I hate putting red and green together when it's not Christmas, it was necessary for this section.

At my most recent ESL meeting, we were asked to remind teachers that catering to different language levels is not only a nice, pro-preteen development thing to do, but also every teacher's responsibility under the current state law.

**Every teacher - core curriculum and electives alike - is responsible for making the content comprehensible to all of your students regardless of language level.**

I have faith that all of the teachers here at Berry Middle School are doing the best that they can to accommodate our English Language Learners because you're all excellent teachers. But I know that this can also be a HUGE challenge.

One other note on this subject: just as with our students receiving special education services, we still want to challenge our ELL students as much as possible to ensure that we're raising their language proficiency at least one level each year.

## TELPAS WRITING PROMPTS

I should be bringing these prompts to you by Monday at the latest if you are a content area that we need writing samples from to meet requirements. I know that both math and science have a lot on their shoulders preparing for TAKS, and I'll do my best to give you plenty of time to work this into your schedule.

# TELPAS REFRESHER

For those of you certified in TELPAS rating, I would like to THANK YOU whole-heartedly for your assistance in the upcoming spring testing season. And remember, I think that you're wonderful.

Having said that, when you take your refresher training soon (it opens on February 1), there is a new regulation that you all need to be aware of before beginning the course. To quote the information packet from the Bilingual/ESL department,

***"Individuals who do not rate students with sufficient accuracy [fewer than 5 out of 7 correct] on the Level 2 refresher courses are required to complete the supplemental training."***

If you have to take the supplemental training, it involves re-taking the applicable language domain module of the basic online training course. If you do not rate 4 out of the 5 students in the practice activities correctly, then we'll have to talk with Shannon about the next steps.

The official advice on how to get it right the first time? Have your levels charts in front of you when you take the online refresher. If you need a new copy of the charts, please let me know and I'll give you a copy of mine.

When the website opens, you'll get a reminder from Shannon (and possibly me as well), but in case you'd like to check your past scores, the website is:  
<http://www.TexasAssessment.com/telpasonlinetraining>

## ESL Students of the Week



<u>Name:</u> Estefany Briseno	<u>Name:</u> Briannyl Rodriguez
<u>Grade:</u> 6th	<u>Grade:</u> 6th
<u>First language:</u> Spanish	<u>First language:</u> Spanish

Fun personality fact: Estefany is the most reliable student I have, but my favorite thing about her is her voracious reading appetite.

Fun personality fact: Briannyl is incredibly patient. I know this because it took me an unfortunate two weeks to pronounce her name correctly, but she never got frustrated with my lack of speaking skills.